

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 AF-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19

NIC-01 EA-11 DRC-01 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3828

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 26220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UR, UN.

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: SOVIET EMBASSY APPROACH

1. FOLLOWING MID-DAY (OCTOBER 7) TELEPHONE CALL FROM
SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR SLIOUSSAR, POLCOUNS MET
SLIOUSSAR FOR DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

2. STATING THAT HE WAS NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS
FROM MOSCOW, SLIOUSSAR SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR SOVIET
AND US EMBASSIES TO BE IN CLOSE CONTACT DURING EVOLUTION
OF "THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION". ALTHOUGH INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO SOVIET EMBASSY IS FRAGMENTARY, SLIOUSSAR SAID IT
APPEARS THAT FIGHTING HAS BEEN LIMITED TO ARAB
TERRITORY (BOTH EAST OF SUEZ AND IN GOLAN HEIGHTS
AREA) OCCUPIED BY ISRAELIS SINCE 1967 WAR. SLIOUSSAR
EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO RESPONSIBILITIES
OF US AND USSR -- AS WORLD POWERS, AS CHARTER MEMBERS
OF SECURITY COUNCIL, AS COUNTRIES WITH IMPORTANT RE-
LATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST -- TO BRING THEIR INFLUENCE TO
BEAR ON THE SITUATION IN RESPONSIBLE MANNER. WITH

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REGARD TO SOVIET INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST, SLIOUSSAR

UNDERLINED FACT THAT USSR HAS A TREATY RELATIONSHIP
WITH EGYPT: FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY
SIGNED IN 1971.

3. SLIOUSSAR ASKED HOW US SAW SITUATION DEVELOPING
OVER NEXT FEW DAYS AND WHAT ACTIONS USG WAS CONTEM-
PLATING. EMPHASIZING THAT INFORMATION TOO FRAGMENTARY
TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATE, POLCOUNS SAID HE BELIEVED THAT
BOTH COUNTRIES HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO URGE
EARLY SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES. SLIOUSSAR SAID HE
WISHED TO ADD THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY
OPPOSED TO SETTLING ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT ON BATTLE-
FIELD; HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED ONLY IN POLITICAL
SOLUTION.

4. IN SPECULATING ABOUT HOW POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL
ACTION MIGHT DEVELOP, SLIOUSSAR SAID HE WAS SURE
PRC WOULD BE AS UNHELPFUL ABOUT MIDDLE EASTERN
SITUATION IN GENERAL AND SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR
AS IT HAS BEEN IN RECENT UNSC DISCUSSIONS.

5. SLIOUSSAR SAID HE WISHED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT
DURING THE COMING DAYS. POLCOUNS ASSURED HIM HE WAS
AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME.

6. IN SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR APPROACH, SOVIET NAVAL ATTACHE SOUGHT
OUT AND MET WITH US NAVAL ATTACHE OCTOBER 7. (REPORTED
USDAO MESSAGE 071414OCT. 73 NOTAL).

7. COMMENT: DESPITE SLIOUSSAR'S STATEMENT TO THE
CONTRARY, BELIEVE HE MUST HAVE BEEN ACTING ON INSTR-
UCTION. INTERESTINGLY, SLIOUSSAR DID NOT CONTEST
POLCOUNS' USE OF WORD "INCURSION" IN DESCRIBING SYRIAN
AND EGYPTIAN ACTIONS INTO ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY;
NOR DID HE ACCUSE ISRAEL OF INITIATING FIGHTING THIS
TIME. INSTEAD, HE SEEMED TO BE BUILDING A CASE FOR
LEGITIMATE ARAB MILITARY REACTION TO ILLEGAL
ISRAELI SEIZURE OF ARAB TERRITORY IN 1967, FOLLOWED
BY ISRAELI OBDURACY DURING SUBSEQUENT ARAB
DIPLOMATIC ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER LOST TERRITORY.

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